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National Republican Party Rhode Island.
Examination of certain
charges against General H. Arnold.

1831



Class 51

Book 1027

EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN
CHARGES AGAINST
LEMUEL H. ARNOLD, ESQ.,
THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN

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CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR,

BEING A

REPORT
OF
THE COMMITTEE,

APPOINTED APRIL 12 1831.

PROVIDENCE, 1831.

REPORT, &c

Resolved, That William Pabodie, John Whipple, William Church, Zachariah Allen, Silvanus G. Martin, Benjamin Aborn, Dexter Angell, Jesse Metcalf, Isaac Brown, William Sheldon, Mathew Watson, Abner Peckham, and Henry R. Green, Esquires, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to enquire into, and as far as possible to trace to their origin, the charges and reports which have been put in circulation, impeaching the moral character and the political principles and conduct of Lemuel Hastings Arnold, the candidate recommended by the National Republican State Convention for the office of Chief Magistrate; and that said Committee be requested to make their report by publishing the result of their investigations in the newspapers or otherwise.

The above is a true copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the National Republicans, holden in Providence on Tuesday evening, April 12, 1831, in the Court House.

Attest, PETER PRATT, Secretary.

The Committee appointed by the foregoing resolution, now make their Report in the manner therein directed.

If it be true that a correct judgment of the soundness or unsoundness of a cause may, generally, be formed from the fair or foul means employed in its support—the honorable or dishonorable conduct of its advocates; there are few candid men who can be at a loss to decide between the cause of the Van Buren or Fenner party, or, (as for present purposes it seems to prefer calling itself) the Jackson, or administration party, and that which has always, heretofore, been supported by a great majority of the Freemen of this State, as the true cause of national union, national republicanism and self government.

The Committee consider it greatly to the credit of our respected fellow-citizen, Lemuel Hastings Arnold, that, as soon as he had consented, (upon the nomination, and at the request of the National Republican State Convention,) to be presented to the Freemen as a candidate for the office of Chief Magistrate; (knowing that in every party there will be some whose zeal outstrips their discretion) he called upon the conductors of all the friendly presses in this town, and made it his serious request that, so far as depended upon their example and influence, the approaching political contest should be conducted in a fair, temperate and liberal manner; and that, especially, every thing disrespectful, or of a personal character towards the opposing candidate (Gov. Fenner) should be carefully avoided. The friends of Mr. Arnold also have approved of this manly course, and have joined in promoting it: and, we believe that it has been strictly adhered to. It is to be regretted that many of the opposite party, among whom we are compelled to include some, at least, of its principal leaders, have shewn themselves incapable of appreciating such honorable conduct, or following so wholesome an example. It is not to be pretended that the broken down, dependant conductors of the inferior class of printing presses are left entirely unregulated and unadvised, to follow their own suggestions, and to publish whatever they please without consulting those in whose service they are employed, or regarding their wishes when expressed. On the contrary, it is well known that they are under the entire management of their political patrons and party leaders, and are furnished by them, and by paragraph writers countenanced by them, with the bulk of the political articles which are published in their papers. This being the case, what a picture does it present of the character of the party having the control and direction of those presses! scarcely a paper has issued from them since the nomination of Mr. Arnold, that has not teemed with gross personal

abuse, and with direct charges or insinuations affecting his moral character and principles. But misrepresentations published in newspapers are too soon and easily confuted to work much mischief. The political enemies of Mr. Arnold being sensible of this obstacle to the success of their efforts, sometime ago caused to be prepared and circulated, at first, in the interior and distant towns, as privately as possible a pamphlet containing the most shameless and wanton attacks upon the character of respectable citizens, which have ever been witnessed in this State. This pamphlet contains two principal accusations against Mr. Arnold and Mr. Jas. F. Simmons jointly: the latter of which gentlemen, because he is the zealous and valued friend of Mr. Arnold, appears to have become peculiarly obnoxious to his adversaries.

The Committee have carefully and thoroughly examined both these charges, and all others that the pamphlet in question contains, and will proceed to lay before the freemen the result of their investigation.

The most prominent and slanderous charge is in substance as follows, viz: That Messrs. Arnold and Simmons, as Commissioners of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank, got possession of a mortgage executed by Wm. Harris to that Bank, on 192 shares in the stock of the Providence and Pawtucket East Turnpike Company. That those shares were \$50 each, and amounted to \$9,600, and that the Bank had an interest in them to that amount, by virtue of said mortgage. That Harris (being insolvent,) assigned all his right, title and interest in those shares to Mr. N. Searle and others, his assignees, subject to the lien of the Bank. That "in Dec. 1829," (says the pamphlet) the assignees offered for sale at public auction Harris' interest in said shares, and that Messrs. A. and S. became the purchasers thereof for \$2976, 75, on their own individual account. That the same was paid Jan. 4, 1830, by an offset on the mortgage either in cash or by note of Messrs. A. and S. at any rate that they became responsible to the Bank for

that amount. The pamphlet, after making a number of contradictory insinuations,—such as that the Commissioners made the purchase in anticipation of their commission, and that they purchased in the bills of the Bank at twenty-five per cent discount, and turned them into the bank at par, to the amount of the purchase money; proceeds to assert that the two commissioners, as *trustees*, appeared at the assignees sale and became the real purchasers for their own benefit; and *virtually disregarded and cancelled the mortgage belonging to the Bank, and no longer treated it as the property of the Bank*. And this charge of corruption on the part of the commissioners and fraud upon the Bank, is kept up throughout the pamphlet, and repeatedly presented in the most aggravated terms.

The grossest impudence and absurdity of such a charge must be apparent to any man who will take the trouble to examine it for a single moment.—How could the purchase of the equity of redemption in those shares by the Commissioners or any other persons, at all affect the Bank's mortgage on them; if any such mortgage had existed? How could it be made to operate as a discharge of such a mortgage? How could the purchase money for the equity of redemption be paid to any body but the assignees of Harris, who sold it for the benefit of his (Harris') creditors, to be distributed agreeably to his assignment? How could it be offset on the supposed mortgage of the Bank; or how could the purchasers be responsible to the Bank for the payment of money which the assignees alone had a right to receive and give a discharge for?

Fortunately, the Committee are not under the necessity of dwelling upon these inconsistencies; for it has turned out and is at least, confessed by the libellers themselves, (after making all the use in their power of the fabrication) that no such mortgage or lien as they had asserted to be held by the Bank ever existed; and that of course no purchase money

was ever offset on any such mortgage: that the commissioners were never responsible to the Bank for any such money:—That no bills of the Bank were ever purchased in at 25 pr. ct. discount by said Commissioners and turned into the Bank at par to the amount of said purchase money: That no mortgage belonging to the Bank was ever discharged or cancelled by said Commissioners; and, in short, that the whole story, from beginning to end was a sheer fabrication. But although these false accusations against Mr. Arnold, are effectually defeated and put down, yet the Committee are of opinion that so barefaced and base an outrage upon the character of respectable citizens, and so unprincipled an imposition upon the community, ought not to be passed over without being thoroughly exposed. It appears, that after a number of copies of this pamphlet had been secretly sent out of town and circulated, the authors of it, to guard against being indicted when they should be detected; pretended to have discovered an error or mistake in the pamphlet, which they were desirous of correcting. And to keep up this show of correction, they print a short note on a blank page of the pamphlet, in which they slightly mention the pretended error. Whoever reads this note with attention, will be convinced of two things: 1st. That the author of it and of the pamphlet, never was under any mistake, as he pretends, in relation to the false statements he makes, but that he knew they were false when he made them: and 2d. That the note was contrived and intended to be used to skreen the author in case of a prosecution; and in the mean time to interfere as little as possible with the purposes which those calumnies were calculated to answer. The author of the pamphlet assures his readers,—those whom he selected to send it to—that his “statements are derived from authentic sources,” And he then goes on to state as positive facts, that the Bank held a mortgage on the 192 turnpike shares, amounting to \$9,600; and that the purchase

money of the equity of redemption was offset on the mortgage,—stating precisely the date of the offset to have been *Jan. 4, 1830*. How came he to *suppose* the existence of things which never did exist? A man may mistake in stating facts which have some foundation: but when things are positively stated as facts, which have not a shadow of existence, and never did exist; this is not error or mistake, it is sheer fabrication and falsehood. But this libeller convicts himself of having made these false statements knowingly and wilfully. He states (page 4th first pamphlet) that the purchase money for the equity of redemption was offset on the mortgage, *Jan. 4, 1830*. This fact (of the day of the offset) he could only ascertain from the assignees of William Harris, who had sold those shares: probably from Mr. N. Searle, who we understand, kept the accounts of the assignees proceedings: and at the same time that he ascertained the *date* of the payment of the purchase money he ascertained also that that payment was to the assignees themselves, and was not offset on the mortgage as he positively asserts.—And their pamphlet contains in itself other intrinsic, and conclusive evidence that the author knew perfectly well that the statements he was making for the purpose of building upon them the grossest accusations of corruption, dishonesty and fraud against Messrs. Arnold and Simmons were utterly false.—From his style of writing and his descanting upon what he calls “*the plain and well settled principles in chancery*,” governing TRUST FUNDS, and his laying down the law applicable to the respective rights of a mortgagee and of the holder of the equity of redemption, it is evident that he is professionally a lawyer, of some grade or other. But even if he is not a lawyer, and is merely possessed of the ordinary share of information which is possessed by the generality of uneducated business men, he could not fail to know that the statements he was making, viz:—“That the purchase money of the equity of redemp-

that it should so revert to the public: for in 1808 and 1809, more than twenty years prior to the petition in question, it, (the Legislature,) had passed acts, in addition to the charter of the West Turnpike Company, expressly to empower that Company to put their tolls as low as it pleased, and thereby to perpetuate their right in the road. Under such circumstances, what possible impropriety could there be in the petition of the East Turnpike Company for a union? Take it either way, either that the road was not expected to revert to the public, or that the State intended to take it to itself, and what impropriety could there be in the petition? Let us consider. If the road was not to revert, but was to continue the property of the Company, there could certainly be no objection, on the part of the State, to the union—the public would be benefitted by it, they would have the use of two good roads instead of one, without any increase of tolls. The General Assembly had chartered the East Turnpike Company because it considered that Turnpike a useful and necessary one; the prop' of Providence and Pawtucket also considered it a useful road. Why then should it be left to go down?—On the other hand, if the road is to revert to the State, and to be held by it as a valuable property, and a great and lasting source of revenue, then the East Turnpike Company would have no object in being united with the other; for the increase of the tolls of the West road 33 per cent above what they were, would give sufficient travel to the East road fully to satisfy its proprietors. That this would be the effect of the West road's becoming the property of the State, is to be inferred from the law passed in October last, raising the tolls 33 per cent, and the calculations made by Gov. Fenner in his letter of 11th inst to Col. Rivers, and by the author of this pamphlet, as to the great increase of profits to be derived by the State from that road, which it is supposed would amount to about \$6,000. And accordingly we find that since the appointment of the Com-

mittee at June Session of the General Assembly, 1830, and expectations have been excited, that the West road might become the property of the State, the petition of the East Turnpike Company has never been called up.

Providence, April 9, 1831.

I hereby certify that the petition of the town of North Providence for the State to rebuild and repair the Bridge over Pawtucket river, in the village of Pawtucket, or to grant to the town of North Providence the necessary means of doing it; was not presented to the General Assembly till the June Session, 1830. That the signers of the petition, therein state that they are "a committee appointed by the freemen of North Providence on the 21st day of April 1830 to inspect the bridge at the village of Pawtucket, and the propriety of repairing the same."

I further certify that the petition of Wm. P. Allen and others, stockholders of the Pawtucket and Providence East Turnpike Corporation, for power to unite itself with the Providence and Pawtucket Turnpike Corporation, was called up at the June Session, 1830, and postponed to the next Session. And immediately after said postponement, a committee was appointed to examine the books, &c. of the Providence and Pawtucket Turnpike Corporation, to report at the next session.—That since the appointment of said committee, said petition of Wm. P. Allen et al, has not been called up nor acted upon.

Attest, WM. S. PATTEN,
Clerk House Representatives.

Upon a full view, therefore, of this transaction, in every possible shape in which it can be placed, what shadow of impropriety was there in the petition for a union, at the time that petition was preferred? What member of either House, then saw any such impropriety in it? Not one, we are confident; for it was not then discovered that a plain and simple petition before the General Assembly could be made use of to produce political effect. The petition was first called up and advocated at the Jan. session, 1830, by Mr. E. R. Potter. The same petition having been afterwards referred to the Committee on corpo-

rations, of which that gentleman, (Mr. Potter) was Chairman, he, at the June session, 1830, reported the bill for uniting the two roads, which is now on the files of the House, and which he then strenuously advocated, making, in the course of his arguments the following remarks, viz: "He, (said Mr. Potter,) was of the Committee who reported the act of union, and saw no objection to the House's adopting it. All the parties had been represented before them, (the Committee) and he believed that the public interest would be promoted by the contemplated union of the two roads." Major Bull, also one of the members from Newport, approved of the object of the petition, and promised to give it his aid. Are these two respectable leaders of the Jackson party chargeable with having lent their aid to an attempt to *speculate upon the funds of the State*? Are all the other stockholders of the East Turnpike Company who, as well as Mr. A. and S. signed the same petition; are the town of North-Providence and its Committee, [including Mr. Edward Randall himself,] all to be subjected to the same charge of corruption?

There are also a number of minor charges in the same pamphlet against Messrs. A. & S. which the Committee think it scarcely necessary to notice particularly. One of them is that the *Town of North Providence was overreached and most egregiously taken in* by those gentlemen. "This in effect, (says the pamphlet) was enabling these gentlemen, (Messrs A. & S.) to realize out of the *good citizens* of the *Town of North Providence, whose votes are now solicited to elect Mr. Arnold, Governor of the State*, the neat and handsome profit of six hundred and ninety dollars," &c. No doubt the *good citizens* of N. P. will duly appreciate the very friendly solicitude thus expressed for them. But as to the charge itself, the gross falsehood of it, is shown by the following testimony of two of that town's Committee upon the subject in question.

We the Committee of the town of North Providence, appointed to confer with the proprietors of the Turnpike leading from Providence to Pawtucket, and make an arrangement in relation to the rebuilding or repairing the bridge over Pawtucket Falls, and petition to the General Assembly in relation to the same, have examined a pamphlet, the first and the corrected copy thereof, published at the Herald office in Providence, charging Mr. L. H. Arnold and James F. Simmons with an attempt to speculate on the funds of the State, and of overreaching the town of North Providence in an arrangement made with us for that town. We consider it due to those gentlemen as well as to ourselves as a Committee of the town, to state that we called on them in pursuance of our appointment and proposed to them an arrangement for rebuilding and repairing and maintaining said bridge, provided their petition to the General Assembly for a union should be granted and the union take place. That in our conversation on this subject and alluding to the probability that they would make a profit on their purchase they did not so consider it, and offered the Committee their Stock in said East Turnpike at just what it had cost them—which we declined.

The charges in these pamphlets, of the town's being overreached or that there was a condition that the town would be obliged to take the stock at an advance or profit, is wholly unfounded in fact. Neither the town or its citizens were obliged to take the stock at any price, the mere privilege of taking some of it at the original cost, was obtained at the request of one of the committee.

RICHD. ANTHONY,
NATHAN A. BROWN.

North Providence, }
April 12, 1831. }

*The signature of one of the Committee was not obtained, in consequence of not being able to find him in time.

The following certificate of the Treasurer of the East Turnpike Corporation will show that no manner of reliance can be placed on the calculations and assertions contained in the pamphlet as to the amount of the capital stock of that company or the par value of the shares.

I hereby certify, that I am the Treasurer of the Pawtucket and Providence East Turnpike Corporation, and have the books and records thereof—That I have read a pamphlet re-

cently issued from the Herald office in Providence, entitled, "*Attempted Speculation*," and know that the statements therein contained, as it relates to the amount of the stock transferred by the assignees of William Harris, and also as to the other statements of the capital stock of said Turnpike Corporation, are erroneous, and calculated to deceive.

WILLIAM P. ALLEN.

The Committee here conclude their examination of the charges contained in this most scandalous pamphlet.

In part performance of the further duty with which they were charged, by the Freemen—that of endeavoring to trace those charges to their origin—one of the committee, in company with Mr. Arnold, called at the printing office from which the pamphlet appears to have been issued, for the purpose of demanding the name of its author. The demand was made by Mr. Arnold, of the printer, who replied that he could not at present give the name of the author, but would some other time.

That a man who could be guilty of inventing and publishing such execrable calumnies should wish to keep in concealment is not to be wondered at. Fortunate would it be if he was indeed a solitary object of disgust. If he had no conditors, no counsellors, no aiders and abettors: fortunate if there were none to rejoice in the poisonous effect of his slanders, and greedily, though sily, to profit by them.

But when we know that hundreds of these very libels, vile as they are, are circulated all over the State, with the greatest activity, even by some of the leaders of the party, to serve whose cause it was fabricated, by men who are perfectly well acquainted with the injured parties, and have often expressed the highest respect and regard for them, and who know the charges against those gentlemen, to which they are thus endeavoring to give currency and effect, to be most grossly false and scandalous—how can we hope that this slanderer has not his fellows.

It is a fact which cannot fail to excite the most

painful reflections, that that very pamphlet had been impatiently expected in distant parts of the State for several weeks past; and that it was well known what were to be the principal topics of it long before it was issued. When we reflect upon these things, we cannot but fear that there are too many men among us who will not hesitate to sacrifice all that is sacred, nor to cherish all that is foul, if by so doing they can but promote their own political purposes. What will the sober minded, reflecting people of this State think, when they come to read the subjoined correspondence between Mr. Arnold and Governor Finner, and find that the latter gentleman was informed, several days before it came out, that this scandalous libel was in preparation, and would soon be published unless he expressed his disapprobation of it, and that he refused to lift his finger to prevent its appearance, although well he knew, that, being written to serve his cause, the slightest expression of his wishes would have been sufficient to suppress it.

We feel assured that the people of this state will not countenance such conduct. They will not look on with apathy, when some of the worthiest of their fellow citizens are basely calumniated, and the calumniator is patronized by men in authority. The interest which the community feel in the reputation of its members, is one of the happiest ties of Society. It is in this interest that private character finds its security, its support and reward. Laws may protect our property, but our reputation are in the guardianship of the public. It is by one common consent, and impulse, that private character is held sacred; and he who would make it his sport or his prey, is ever an object of distrust and aversion. In whatever shape he appears, in the sight of all men, he is odious.

Providence, 20th March, 1831.

SIR—When this political canvass commenced, I had reason to hope and believe, that all malignant attacks of a private or personal character would be avoided, and that the

mutual good understanding between us would not necessarily be thereby interrupted. Although the two papers in this town friendly to your election, have descended to personalities, and have falsely assailed my private conduct and character, I have forborne to complain, because it was done publicly, and so far as it was worthy of notice, it could easily be refuted.

But, sir, I have been informed that some of your political friends have now in the press, if not in circulation, a *pamphlet* containing the most wanton, malicious and groundless charges and insinuations against me and some of my personal friends, and that they intend circulating it *secretly* throughout the State, on the eve of election, too late to allow of its calumnies or its authors to be exposed.

The high opinion I entertain of your principles of honor and sense of propriety, forbids the belief that you would for a moment countenance so base a procedure, or that you would suffer it if known to you. I have therefore taken the liberty to notify you of it, that you may in justice to yourself as well as to me, take the necessary steps to suppress it, or such parts of it as are not founded in truth. I am the more strongly persuaded that you will readily adopt this course, since your refusal or neglect to do so, will lead to the unequivocal inference that you sanction or approve of it, or at least are willing to avail yourself of it. I would not have you or any one else suppose that I fear the strictest scrutiny on any proper occasion; and if your friends deem it necessary to secure your election to go into an investigation of my private transactions, I give them my free and full consent to state *fairly* and *openly* every public or private transaction of my life.

I am respectfully yr. obt. servt.

Sign'd.

L. H. ARNOLD.

To his Exy.

JAMES FENNER.

Providence, March 30th, 1831.

SIR—Yours of yesterday's date was handed to me this afternoon.

Thus far in the present political canvass I have not considered you to be responsible for any thing which might interrupt "our mutual good understanding."

You address yourself to me, presuming, as it would seem, that I control or influence the measures of defence which are adopted by my friends.—It is not so.—It must be known to

you, as to others, that I have been confined to my house by indisposition for more than two months, and that I have not had opportunity in any political movement.

As you introduce into your note, in a tone of complaint, the three papers which are furnished weekly in support of my election, will you have the goodness to bestow a thought on the fourteen or sixteen which appear weekly to defame me and to support you? I am not accountable for the language of our papers, for I neither furnish matter for the press, nor visit to join in the *servant of any office*. If, however, the language of our republican papers is calculated to excite your sensibility, what, do you think, should be the effect of the *lens*'s in your own?

If there be in the "press," or in "circulation," a pamphlet of the character you mention, you are better informed on the subject than myself. You are right in the opinion that I never shall "contenance" any thing "base;" and mortified and humbled, indeed I should feel, could I suppose that my political friends would suffer, in their moral qualities, by a comparison with the political friends of any other gentleman.

In attempting, by "unequivocal inference," to make me responsible for the acts of others, are you aware, sir, of the crushing ball of responsibility which your logic imposes on yourself? Am I to consider you accountable for all the falsehoods and defamation against me with which your papers have teemed since you have been a candidate for office? Are you willing to assume that responsibility, and to become amenable to me according to the laws of our country? I have been far, very far, from ascribing to you even a *title* of the abuse and vulgarity with which I have been assailed.—Yet your reasoning, "by unequivocal inference," leads to the belief, "that you sanction or approve of it, or at least are willing to avail yourself of it."

While I protest against all responsibility for the conduct of others, you may rest assured that neither yourself, nor any other citizen shall have just cause of complaint against me for an *intentional* aggression on private rights, nor, perhaps, even by inadvertence.

Respectfully your obt. servt.

J. FENNER.

LEMUEL H. ARNOLD, Esq.

Providence, March 31, 1831.

SIR—I rec'd. yours of the 30th, in answer to my note of the 20th inst. and am happy to have your testimony that nothing has transpired on my part to disturb our friendly relations. I am a little surprised, however, that you could

have misunderstood the object of my letter. I had no intention of detracting from the "moral qualities" of "your political friends," nor of denying the high and responsible character of "the three papers which are furnished weekly in support of your election," nor do I mean, for the reason mentioned, to *complain* of their personal abuse, nor boast of the number and respectability of the papers that have espoused our cause, nor will I shrink from assuming the "responsibility" of any "libels" published in our papers against your Excellency *with my knowledge*, and without a decided *expression* of my *disapprobation*. I did not expect my "logic" would have produced such a "crushing load" of interrogatories.

Having answered these, allow me to ask your attention to that part, in fact the sole object of my note, which appears almost to have escaped your notice. I refer to the "pamphlet," and the time and manner of its intended circulation.

My information came through one of your "political friends," and had credulity enough to suppose that it might be true. Were I thus notified I should feel it my duty to *inquire*, and if I found the fact to be so, to exert my influence to suppress falsehood and scandal, even if it were to be used against a political opponent, and to promote my own election. I do not ask you to "influence the measures of defence," but *aggression*. Would any one believe that any request you should make as to the mode of advocating your own cause would not be complied with by the *presses* devoted to your service? Am I to understand by your "protest against all responsibility for the conduct of others," that if you are informed of the publication of a false and scandalous pamphlet, you will not *attempt* to interpose your influence to prevent its circulation? If so, will it not "lead to the unequivocal inference that you sanction and approve of it, or at least, are willing to avail yourself of it?" The propriety of the course appears to me so plain, I ought not to doubt for a moment that you would exert your influence in such a case. I only wished your assurance to that effect to prevent a resort to personalities on our part by way of "defence," which I should very much regret. Believe me, when I assure you, my note to you was dictated by friendship, love of truth, and a desire to have this political canvass conducted upon *open, fair, and honorable* principles.

I am very respectfully your obt. servt.

Signed,

LEMUEL H. ARNOLD.

To his Excellency

JAMES FLINNA.

Providence, April 2d, 1831.

SIR—In reply to your note of last evening, I have to ask, only, that you give to me the name of my "political friend," from whom you received the information which has caused so much alarm. Respectfully your obt. servt.

J. FENNER.

LEML. H. ARNOLD, Esq.

Providence, April 8, 1831.

SIR—I have delayed answering your last note in consequence of the absence of my informant. In lieu of the name of your "political friend," through whom my information came, I have the honor of presenting to your Excellency two copies of the pamphlet alluded to, both of which are now circulating in the country. I would ask your careful attention to both editions, and refer your Excellency to Mr. Searle's letter, published in the Journal and American of this morning. You can then judge whether my information was well founded, and whether I had any just cause of complaint.

I am respectfully your obt. servt.

Signed,

L. H. ARNOLD.

His Exy. JAMES FENNER.

N. B. I will thank your Excellency to return the copy marked, "R. B." as I have no other of that edition.

Another anonymous pamphlet, under the title of "A LANDHOLDER," has been sometime in circulation. Its object is to set the farmer against all the other classes of his fellow-citizens. This device has grown too stale to produce any effect at this time of day. The farmers are gravely informed and assured in the pamphlet, that Mr. Arnold, and all the Senatorial candidates in the Prox with him, are deadly enemies to the country interest. That they will be in favor of repealing the Bank tax, and all the other taxes by which the revenue of the State are at present raised; and finally, that it is their design to lay all taxes upon the land. What assurance have the landholders that this nameless writer tells them the truth? What assurance that he has not taken their name for the purpose of imposing on them? What, that he has not written this pamphlet to answer his own ends?

This great friend of the Farmers is endeavoring to persuade them that Mr. A. and all his friends will act directly against their own interest. Mr. Arnold's property is nearly all in real estate, and if the present system of taxing is changed, his portion of a tax on the land would be twenty times more than he now has to pay. All the other candidates are similarly situated, they are all of them real landholders, and nearly every one of them is a farmer by profession and practice.

TO THE LANDHOLDERS OF RHODE-ISLAND.

BANK AND LAND TAX.

A very injurious report having been circulated in the country, that the National Republican candidates are in favor of repealing the TAX ON BANKS, and substituting in its place an oppressive LAND TAX, we have felt it a duty to make a direct and written enquiry of each of the candidates as to the opinions he holds on this interesting subject. To a letter addressed, by a member of this committee, to the candidates, separately, we have seen the replies of each of these gentlemen, which are most direct and satisfactory.—They utterly deny the truth of this rumor, and treat its imputations as a malicious publication.

Of the gentlemen nominated as candidates for the Senate, Messrs. Benjamin Smith, Stephen B. Cornell, and Thomas Whipple, were members of the Assembly when the law imposing the Bank-tax was enacted. *They then voted in favor of this tax, and are still in favor of it.* Messrs. Stephen Steere, Hezekiah Bosworth, Samuel W. King, Wager Weeden, Duty Arnold, Ethan Foster and William Smith, were not at that time members of the Senate; but they have always been friendly to the tax in question, *and are now upon principle, totally opposed to its diminution or repeal.* With respect to the opinions of Mr. ARNOLD, and Gov. COLLINS, it is proper to add, that they concur, entirely, in these sentiments of their colleagues, and as they were always satisfied of the justice of this tax, so they now are for maintaining it with firmness and moderation, and as an indispensable branch of the Revenue of the State.

As to the extraordinary suggestion, that the candidates nominated in the N. R. Prox, (who are all of them Landholders,) are supposed to be favorable to a *tax on land*, the most onerous imposition upon their own property—it is

scarcely necessary to say, that it is utterly repudiated by each of these gentlemen, and is surely not entitled to any serious consideration.

We will add that the letters referred to in the preceding statements are now in the hands of Dr. John P. Mann, of Newport, and are open to the inspection of such of our fellow-citizens as are disposed to consult them.

JNO. P. MANN,
WILLIAM BATEMAN,
GEO. IRISH,
C. E. ROBBINS.

April, 1831.

I, Joseph Wheelock, Cashier of the Merchants Bank, Providence, do hereby certify that I have received since last October, and still continue to take at our Bank, the bills of the Farmers and Mechanics Bank, on the same terms that I take any of the bills of other banks out of this town.

JOS. WHEELOCK, Cash.

Providence, April 12th, 1831.

The forgoing statements, documents and remarks are respectfully submitted to the Freemen, by their Committee.

WILLIAM PABODIE,
WILLIAM CHURCH,
SILVANUS G. MARTIN,
DEXTER ANGELL,
ISAAC BROWN,
MATHEW WATSON,
HENRY R. GREEN.

JOHN WHIPPLE,
ZACHARIAH ALLEN,
BENJAMIN ABORN,
JESSE METCALF,
WILLIAM SHELDON,
ABNER PECKHAM,

Providence, April 14th, 1831.

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